

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented): A method for performing a search to identify items and categories of items that relate to a search term, the method comprising:
- receiving at least one search term;
  - comparing the search term with a list of recommended items to determine whether matches exist;
  - accessing a list of previously received search terms stored in an electronic data store that were used to perform searches;
  - comparing the search term with the list to determine whether matches exist between the search term and the list of previously received search terms;
  - comparing the search term with a hierarchy of category identifiers and terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist; and
  - displaying results based on matches that are determined to exist, wherein:
    - the matches between the search term and the list of previously received search terms are displayed as a list of related search terms that were entered for previously performed searches, and
    - the matches between the search term and the list of recommended items are displayed as a list of recommended web sites that are identifiably designated as recommended web sites.

15. (original): The method of claim 14 further comprising comparing the search term with an electronic information store that includes full text of different web pages from different web sites to determine whether matches exist.

16. (original): The method of claim 15 wherein receiving at least one search term comprises:

receiving several search terms; and  
grouping the search terms received as a single string.

17. (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the items comprise web sites and displaying results comprises displaying a list of recommended sites, a list of related searches, a list of category identifiers, and a list of web site identifiers.

18. (original): The method of claim 15 further comprising conducting a world wide web search using the search term when less than a threshold number of matches occurs.

19. (original): The method of claim 18 further comprising conducting a search of an electronic information store that includes full text of proprietary content.

20. (original): The method of claim 14 wherein the items comprise web sites.

21-24. (cancelled).

25. (previously presented): A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium for performing a search to identify web sites and categories of web sites that relate to a search term, comprising instructions for:

receiving at least one search term;

comparing the search term with a list of recommended web sites to determine whether matches exist;

accessing a list of previously received search terms stored in an electronic data store that were used to perform searches;

comparing the search term with the list to determine whether matches exist between the search term and the list of previously received search terms;

comparing the search term with a hierarchy of category identifiers and terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist; and

displaying results based on matches that are determined to exist, wherein:

the matches between the search term and the list of previously received search terms are displayed as a list of related search terms that were entered for previously performed searches, and

the matches between the search term and the list of recommended items are displayed as a list of recommended web sites that are identifiably designated as recommended web sites.

26. (original): The computer program of claim 25 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a propagated signal.

27. (original): The computer program of claim 26 wherein the propagated signal comprises a carrier wave.

28. (original): The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for comparing the search term with an electronic information store that includes full text of different web pages from different web sites to determine whether matches exist.

29. (original): The computer program of claim 28 wherein the instructions for receiving at least one search term comprise instructions for:

receiving several search terms; and  
grouping the search terms received as a single string.

30. (original): The computer program of claim 28 wherein the instructions for displaying results comprises instructions for displaying a list of recommended sites, a list of related searches, a list of category identifiers, and a list of web site identifiers.

31. (original): The computer program of claim 28 further comprising instructions for conducting a world wide web search using the search term when less than a threshold .

32. (original): The computer program of claim 31 further comprising instructions for conducting a search of an electronic information store that includes full text of proprietary content.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein:  
receiving at least one search term includes receiving at least one search term word; and  
comparing the search term with the hierarchy of category identifiers includes comparing the search term word with one or more words in the hierarchy of category identifiers and comparing the search term word with the terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist.

34. (previously presented): The computer program of claim 25 wherein:  
the instructions for receiving at least one search term comprises instructions for receiving at least one search term word; and  
the instructions for comparing the search term with the hierarchy of category identifiers includes instructions for comparing the search term word with one or more words in the hierarchy of category identifiers and comparing the search term word with the terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 14 further comprising:  
enabling a user to select one of the displayed related search terms from the list of related  
search terms; and  
performing a search using the selected related search terms.

36. (previously presented): The computer program of claim 25 further comprising  
instructions for:  
enabling a user to select one of the displayed related search terms from the list of related  
search terms; and  
performing a search using the selected related search terms.

37-38. (cancelled).